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Wednesday, January 31, 2018 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

FASHION PLATE, FUTURE PRINCESS

Meghan Markle brings enviable looks back to Buckingham Palace. 12

Are the country's 4 most popular Super Bowl items on your menu? 17

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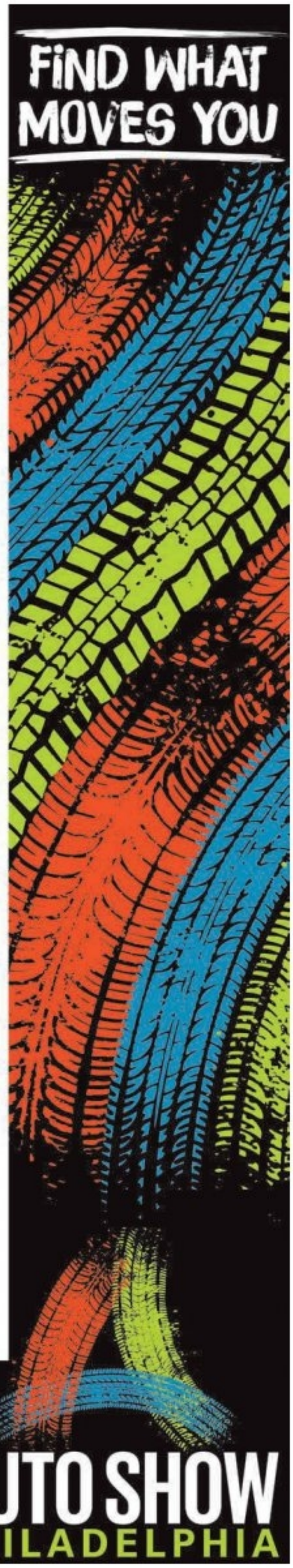
Take it easy, Boston fans. No reason to hate. Pages 4-5, 20



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WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

EVAN MACY, SPORTS EDITOR

When you spend close to a lifetime living in Philadelphia, it's hard not to love everything about the city. Its annoyances become points of pride, its peculiarities become norms, and all the little things that make this place so spectacular can be taken for granted. After reading a ruthless attack, part fair, part below the belt, on the city and on Eagles fans, I felt compelled to draft a column in defense of the vast majority of Philadelphians ahead of the clash of the Eagles and Patriots in Super Bowl LII. We take the high road here.

TRUMP PLANS TO TOUT ECONOMY IN SPEECH

1 President Donald Trump, battling a probe into his campaign's alleged ties with Russia and struggling to sell Americans on his leadership abilities, was planning to take credit for U.S. economic gains in the past year in an address to Congress on Tuesday night. Facing a deadline on an immigration controversy and strong Democratic opposition, Trump also planned to call for a bipartisan compromise of the type that has eluded him during a first year in office marked by heated political battles. Aides said the Republican president would use the televised speech to tout the benefits of a tax overhaul approved by the Republican-controlled Congress in December that was his first major legislative victory. "The economy will be front and center," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told NBC News on Tuesday.

'GLEE' ACTOR DIES BEFORE SENTENCING

2 Mark Salling, an actor who played a supporting role in the TV show "Glee," has died at age 35, his attorney said on Tuesday, weeks before his March sentencing on child pornography charges. Salling's attorney, Michael Proctor, confirmed the death but would not comment on a report on celebrity website TMZ that said law enforcement sources called it an apparent suicide. Proctor also did not immediately provide the cause of death. "I can confirm that Mark Salling passed away early this morning," Proctor said in a statement. Police and the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office confirmed that a body had been found in Los Angeles but would not immediately identify it. Salling was arrested in 2015 after he showed child pornography on his computer to a girlfriend and she reported it to police, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

YANG LIPING PERFORMS 'PEACOCK OF WINTER' IN TIANJIN, CHINA

3 Dancer Yang Liping performs during the dance drama "Peacock of Winter" at Tianjin Grand Theatre on Tuesday in Tianjin, China.

GETTY IMAGES

JUDGE BLASTS TRUMP'S 'VICIOUS' COMMENTS

4 A U.S. judge on Tuesday said he could not ignore what he called "vicious" comments about Latinos made by President Donald Trump as he considers whether to block the president's decision to end a program that protects immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children from deportation. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis said at a hearing in Brooklyn that the Republican president's comments could be evidence that his September decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, was motivated by Trump's "animus" toward Latinos, violating the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. "In this country, in over 230 years, this is not ordinary," Garaufis said, referring to Trump's comments on Twitter and elsewhere. "It's extreme. It's recurring. It's vicious."

TRUMP DECIDES TO HOLD OFF ON RUSSIA SANCTIONS

5 Democratic lawmakers criticized President Donald Trump on Tuesday for not immediately imposing sanctions on Russia, accusing him of being soft on his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. The Trump administration said on Monday it would not impose sanctions for now under a law Congress overwhelmingly passed last year to punish Moscow for meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. As required by the law, the administration published a list of Russian oligarchs who could be sanctioned. Two senior Democratic senators said the sanctions should have come immediately. "Throughout his term in office, President Trump has failed time and time again to stand up to Vladimir Putin, despite the assault that he carried out on our democracy in the 2016 election," Sen. Chuck Schumer said.

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DOES BULLYING BROAD STREET MAKE YOU FEEL BIG, BOSTON?

I can't relate to being a Boston sports fan.

I don't know what it's like to be from a city that has won 10 championships over the last 17 years — at least one per major sports team. And I don't know what it's like to expect to win, or to be a bully.

I don't know what compels those from Boston to sling deep-rooted insults at one another — like in Metro Boston's column from a few days ago.

I think Boston and Philadelphia have a lot in common. They are two blue-collar towns with people proud of their origins. They are cities that have worked painfully hard to better themselves over the course of history and cities that absolutely love sports.

Patriots fans know what it's like to win. Eagles fans don't. How that makes one of our cities better than the other is lost on me.

Boston had Bill Belichick, Theo Epstein and Danny Ainge running their teams. Philly got Joe Banner, Sam Hinkie and Ruben Amaro. What role did the fans play in that?

We relate to these teams like they accomplish for us, but we have no role in anointing the leaders or players who represent us on our teams.

And yet sports are a measuring stick. They should be. They have been around for over a century and bring pride in place, competitiveness and provide countless hours of enriching debate. But they are the measuring stick Boston fans use as their bully pulpit to claim superiority.

I don't waste my time contemplating which region's beaches are better, what Christmas decorations say about demographics or how ugly some of the city's alternative uniforms are. Anyone with half a brain knows that societal elites and trailer trash reside in both Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

The off-the-field insults are some sort of compensation. But for what?

What's it matter if people are a little old fashioned here? Have you been to a Mummer's Parade? It's special.

And we invite our 75 friends over for a pool party because we aren't intrenched in de-humanizing society by creating technology to glass ourselves off from one another. What's it you guys are doing at MIT and Harvard?

Jovial ball-busting is what makes sports great. Personal insults are what elected Donald Trump president and turned nearly half the country into apathetic pessimists.

The city that wins the Super Bowl should celebrate Sunday night. They should feel proud, they should feel better than everyone else. But they shouldn't take it for granted. Tom Brady is 40. Once he's gone, you'll start to remember what it feels like.

Read more about the Super Bowl on pages 18 to 20.

EVAN MACY

OPINION

Evan Macy is the Philadelphia sports editor and a columnist at Metro US.

Follow him on Twitter @evan_macy

The city that wins the Super Bowl should celebrate Sunday night. They should feel proud, they should feel better than everyone else. But they shouldn't take it for granted. GETTY IMAGES

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Quarterback Tom Brady will take on the Eagles. GETTY IMAGES

WHAT'S THE FUSS?

A column published yesterday in Metro's sister publication in Boston's caused quite a stir among the Philadelphia media and received a fierce response from Philadelphia fans and non-fans alike.

The author, Boston's sports editor, received over 800 messages on Twitter and had an inbox full of emails, reacting to statements from his column. Here are some excerpts from the column:

[Philly fans] are T-A-C-K-Y. They're the type of people who hang blue lights on their houses at Christmas time, the type of people who have Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh (and Tigger, too!) stuffed animals in their kitchens, and the type of people who have 75-person pool parties in an above-ground pool during the summertime. Philly people still use transistor radios, and take all of their cues from the local 6 p.m. TV news. They are a good 25 years behind Boston in terms of basically everything. If by some miracle your Eagles are able to dethrone the Pats this Sunday – we'll completely understand if you burn your city down. After all, it'll be a distinct improvement from what Philly currently looks like.

These excerpts, and other parts of the piece made it go viral, with several readers giving their opinions.

Chelsea, a regular Metro reader, wrote in an email: "OK, Pats and Eagles are in the Super Bowl and there is to be expected, and encouraged, banter between cities. But to go beyond the sports teams and attack the people in such detail, seemed a bit excessive despite Metro's sometimes-punchy articles. It came across as bully-ish (doesn't the world have enough of that these days?), something I was surprised Metro supported."

On Twitter, Todd Shannon tweeted: "Typical smug, pathetic NE a-hole. Philly ranked 7th for tech growth in 2018. Boston not on list. I'll give you Harvard but the rest go to Philly. What no Drexel? Center City one of the most robust in US, 2nd most populated. Way better restaurants, music."

The column spurred a lively discussion, one we are happy to continue.

On the previous page, we printed the response from Evan Macy and Metro Philly.

OPENING NIGHT

Shark circles Eagles on madcap Super Bowl Opening Night

For the New England Patriots, the wackiness of Super Bowl Opening Night was routine but for the Philadelphia Eagles Monday's scenes, including being interviewed by a shark, were as bizarre as they come.

Certainly Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick, making their eighth Super Bowl appearance together, strolled into the arena to face reporters with a "been-there-done-that" aura undaunted by anything they were asked or saw.

But for the Eagles, back in the Super Bowl for the first time since 2005, diving into the anything-goes media mosh pit was as chilling as the freezing weather.

Once a journalists-only event the National Football League has transformed Media Day into Opening Night, a televised primetime question-and-answer free-for-all where very little is out of bounds.

"This could never get old," said Brady, surrounded by a wall of cameras and reporters. "It's amazing it gets bigger every year.

"I remember when we just use to go out and stand on the field for 45 minutes now look at this, it's a big event."

Crackling fireworks and thumping music provide the soundtrack as thousands of gridiron-mad fans paid for the excitement of watching the world's media do their job.

The Eagles got in on the fun as a television reporter dressed as a shark circled his prey.

Defensive end Brandon Graham did his interview wearing a dog mask, while tight end Zach Ertz was interviewed by wife Julie, a midfielder and World Cup winner with the U.S. women's soccer team.

"Julie won a World Cup like, two years ago I need to hold up my end of the bargain," Ertz said. "Obviously I've got a lot of pressure on me I don't know how I am going to sleep at night."

REUTERS

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The so-called #MuseumBowl competition is expected to yield plenty of good-natured roguery and teasing on social media. B. KRIST FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

Super Bowl fever leads to 'Museum Bowl'

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Everyone in Philly has Eagles fever this week.

In one especially surprising example, the mild-mannered curators and art installers who staff the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) were a little out of their element when they donned Birds regalia under the snow on Tuesday to sing the Eagles fight song from the famed front stairs of their historic museum.

"Today is not simply about the Eagles versus the Patriots, it's about Philadelphia versus Boston," PMA museum director Timothy Rub said at the event.

The art-lovers were there to publicize their proxy conflict in advance of the Sunday's Big Game with their rival museum in Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA): #MuseumBowl.

The so-called #MuseumBowl competition is expected to yield plenty of good-natured roguery and teasing on social media and perhaps some "art-inspired trash talk," including famous artworks redesigned with a little Photoshop magic to include Eagles and Patriots jerseys.

The winning city's team will get an artwork loaned from the losing team for display in the victorious city.

Both museums have prized collections. Philadelphia has most of the masterpieces of French artist Marcel Duchamp, while Boston has masterpieces like JMW Turner's The Slave Ship.

Check the #MuseumBowl hashtag on Twitter on Friday, Feb. 2, starting around 3 p.m., to see the art gifs and memes fly.

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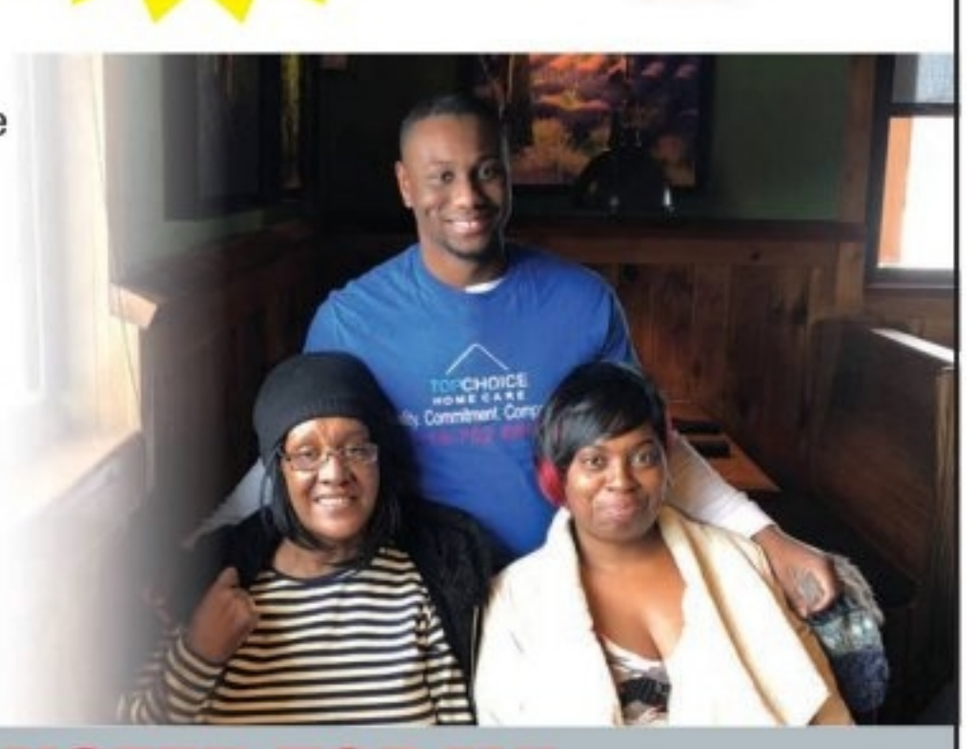

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SUPER BOWL ADS

Chris Pratt (and his abs) star in Michelob Ultra's Super Bowl 2018 commercial

Super Bowl Sunday is just days away — can you taste it? Like every year, we're prepared for some pretty epic commercials. And Michelob Ultra just released its Super Bowl 2018 ad starring some Chris Pratt abs ... oh yeah, and the actor himself.

The Associated Press reported that airtime for a 30-second commercial during this year's Super Bowl costs over $5 million. And the minute-long Michelob Ultra ad titled "The Perfect Fit," chronicles the 38-year-old getting in tiptop shape for his role as the brand's spokesperson — a commercial about training for a commercial. Wild.

You see him preparing his body and mind — detailing the role to friends and random strangers, running through his lines while on a run outside, using Michelob Ultra bottles as weights at the gym and, of course, giving himself a pep talk in the bathroom mirror. Shirtless. In all his abdominal glory. And yes, those Chris Pratt abs are very much on point.

As the AP put it, the ad is about "balancing a healthy lifestyle with beer-fueled fun," which really does translate well. Pratt's hard at work but keeps his sense of humor. At one point he's even doing wrist curls to get his beer-drinking hand ready. It's downright hilarious — and it ends with a twist.

As for Pratt's real-life training in preparation for the commercial, he told AP that he approached it just as he would a role on the big-screen. "If I'm going to be having my shirt off ... in front of 100 million people, I want to look good," he said, "so we worked really hard." (It shows.)

Pratt posted a link to the ad on his social media accounts.

"These days, I'm trying to stay in top shape for work," Pratt wrote on Instagram yesterday. "So when I see a beer I can't help but squint my eyes and imagine a treadmill-Specifically how long I'll have to be on that treadmill to burn off the beer."

He then went on to explain why he's able to drink Michelob Ultra guilt-free: "Michelob Ultra has only 95 calories and 2.6 grams of carbs SO ... I can run that off very easily. Probably in like 10 seconds? [I run 85 mph] Which really makes you wonder why I'm not playing in the Super Bowl instead of just doing a commercial that will air during the Super Bowl." SAM BRODSKY

Off-duty detective kills driver who ran over pedestrian in South Philly

SAM NEWHOUSE
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A Maryland man in South Philly allegedly tried to assault three different people before he was shot by an off-duty officer.

An off-duty police detective fatally shot a driver on Monday morning after the man ran a pedestrian over.

The driver, Khalil Lawal, 31, of Arlington, Virginia, had allegedly been reported driving erratically by a bike cop in the area not long before he chased down and struck a pedestrian intentionally with his 2012 Honda Accord on Bigler Street, just south of Oregon Avenue near Marconi Plaza.

Another male, a witness to the crime, allegedly tried to stop the driver by blocking them with their car, prompting the driver to park his 2012 Honda Accord in the street, get out and chase the witness on foot.

At this point, around 7:36 a.m., an off-duty detective who had observed the scene drove up, according to police, got out of his 2016 Dodge pickup and reportedly told the suspect to get on the ground.

Instead, the suspect "began assaulting the officer," according to police.

"They got into a violent struggle where the male struck the detective several times," Commissioner Richard Ross told NBC.

The officer reportedly fired 10 times and only hit the suspect once. He was pronounced dead at 10:15 a.m. at Penn Presbyterian.

The detective, who has not been identified, is on administrative duty pending the investigation into the shooting in South Philly.

Khalil Lawal was not believed to be armed but was described as being 6 feet tall and 250 pounds. His possible motivation and personal history remain unknown.

The man hit by the defendant's car was treated for contusion and abrasions and released. The officer was also treated and released for minor injuries. No other injuries were reported in relation to the incident.

A driver who ran over a pedestrian on Monday morning was shot by an off-duty police officer. METRO FILE PHOTO

APPLE

US agencies investigate Apple over slowing iPhones: Bloomberg

The U.S. Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating whether Apple Inc. violated securities laws concerning its disclosures that it slowed older iPhones with flagging batteries, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday.

The government has requested information from the company, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The chairman of a U.S. Senate committee overseeing business issues asked Apple to answer questions about its disclosures, Reuters reported this month.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment. An SEC spokesman and Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment.

The company admitted in December that iPhone software can slow down some phones with battery problems.

Apple said the problem was that aging lithium batteries delivered power unevenly, which could cause iPhones to shut down unexpectedly to protect the delicate circuits inside.

Apple posted a public apology over its handling of the battery issue and lowered the price of iPhone battery replacements from $79 to $29.

REUTERS

IPhone batteries are the subject of a new investigation. GETTY IMAGES

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The Karolyi Ranch was closed down last week. GETTY IMAGES

Probe ordered for Karolyi Ranch after Larry Nassar scandal

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The former home of USA Gymnastics in Texas will be under investigation.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered a state criminal probe into whether some of former US Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar victims were abused at the Karolyi Ranch in Huntsville, Texas, as first reported by the Associated Press.

"The public statements made by athletes who previously trained at the Karolyi Ranch are gut-wrenching," Abbott said in a statement Tuesday. "Those athletes, as well as all Texans, deserve to know that no stone is left unturned to ensure that the allegations are thoroughly vetted and the perpetrators and enablers of any such misconduct are brought to justice. The people of Texas demand and the victims deserve nothing less."

The Karolyi Ranch, owned by famed gymnastics coaches Bela and Marta Karolyi, was once the training center for the United States national team from 2001-2018 and considered an elite place for aspiring gymnasts to train. It was permanently closed a day after Nassar was sentenced to 175 years in prison for criminal sexual conduct that saw him abuse over 150 women and girls.

175
NASSAR WAS SENTENCED TO 175 YEARS IN PRISON FOR CRIMINAL SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

During the weeklong sentencing hearing that saw many of Nassar's victims step forward and provide impact statements, the Karolyi Ranch came up in multiple testimonies, most notably from Mattie Larson as she described the culture inside the facility as one that saw these young athletes as almost subhuman.

"The closest civilization is a high-security prison 30 miles away," Larson said. "On top of that, there is no cell service. It's completely isolated … that is no mistake. The complete detachment from the outside world and careless and neglectful adults made it the perfect environment for abusers and neglecters to thrive."

Before the ranch announced its closing, U.S. Gymnastics cut ties with the facility during the sentencing hearing.

Nassar worked as the national team's medical coordinator for more than two decades, assuming the role in 1996. He joined U.S. Gymnastics 10 years prior while still at Michigan State University, which is also under heavy scrutiny after Nassar's crimes came to light.

150
OVER 150 WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCUSED NASSAR OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

"Those athletes, as well as all Texans, deserve to know that no stone is left unturned to ensure that the allegations are thoroughly vetted. … The people of Texas demand and the victims deserve nothing less."

Gov. Greg Abbott

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Human trafficking in Philly hidden in 'massage parlors,' report says

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Loosely regulated massage industry used to conceal prostitution.

A lack of laws regulating "massage parlor" businesses in states like Pennsylvania and New Jersey have allowed them to become a growing industry that could serve as a cover for human trafficking, a new report says.

A new report from Polaris, an anti-human trafficking organization, identified some 9,000 so-called "illicit massage businesses" (IMBs) across the United States that represent an estimated $2.5 billion in underground spending for alleged sexual services.

"While some keep a low profile, many others blatantly advertise 'Asian gals,' or bear sexualized names like 'Good Girl Spa,'" Polaris wrote, noting that users post detailed reviews of various establishments and the women who work there on various private websites.

But many of the women working at IMBs have been tricked into coming to the U.S. to work at these positions, Polaris said, and have no way to leave them.

"The vast majority of women reported to have been trafficked in IMBs are from China, with a relatively high number coming from the Fujian province. The next highest group are women from South Korea," Polaris' report stated. "Most women recruited have no more than a high school education and know very little or no English when they arrive in the United States."

Polaris included in its report photos of massage parlors right in Center City, Philadelphia, which have been targeted by police in the past. But the industry seems to persist, not just in Philly but in the suburbs in the five-county area nearby.

According to Polaris, one Philly parlor operator, Chin Young Song, was convicted of racketeering charges related to prostitution in federal court in 2008. But just five years later, she went back into business in Dallas, Texas, with her new husband. The two were caught and both charged criminally in 2017.

Out of roughly 32,000 cases of human trafficking reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, massage parlor trafficking included 2,949 cases.

Polaris said many of the women working in IMBs have been deceived or lured into accepting these jobs with promises of high pay, non-sex work, and an opportunity to work in an American city.

Others are told they owe large fees in return for being transported to the United States and are given no choice but to work the loan off through sex work, Polaris said. Meanwhile, lacking familiarity with U.S. legal protections or the courts, many sex workers are unable to even ask for help.

By the numbers

9,000 Estimated number of illicit massage businesses (IMBs) in the US

$2.5 billion Estimated annual expenditures on IMBs

32,000 Cases of human trafficking reported to National Human Trafficking Hotline

2,949 Above cases involving IMBs

Source: Polaris

An example of an alleged "illicit massage business" on Ludlow Street in Center City, Philadelphia, that a new report says may be a front for alleged human trafficking organizations and commercial sex operations. COURTESY OF POLARIS

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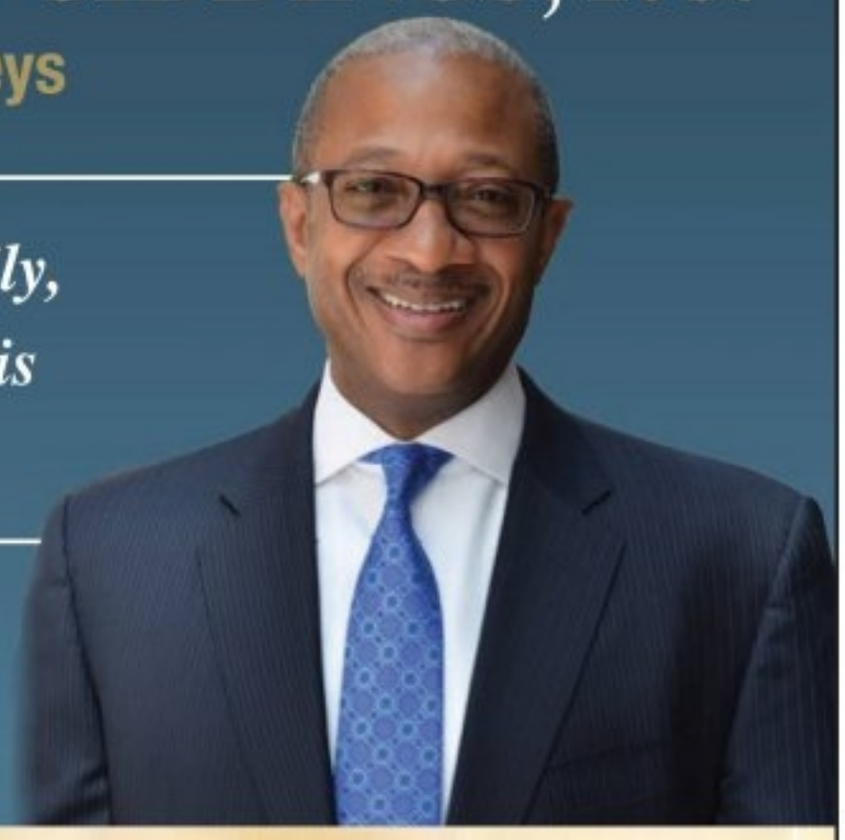

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Here's how much marijuana costs in cities across the country

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And how much tax revenue they could reap by legalizing weed.

There's a pretty big benefit to making recreational weed legal, and it's not like your stoner friends will stop talking about the need to legalize it. It's the new revenue source from marijuana taxes — an untapped stream, many say, turning the already-in-place marijuana market into a social benefit.

But every city's cannabis economy is different, with varying price points per gram and thus different possible tax benefits.

Seedo, a company that manufactures in-home hydroponic devices, so you can grow your own marijuana (or vegetables) yourself, recently released a report trying to break down what exactly that benefit would be by city.

Called the "2018 Cannabis Price Index," Seedo's report broke down weed prices in 120 cities around the world, including 13 in the U.S., in order to calculate how much tax revenue those cities could gain from legalization.

14.22 METRIC TONS

IN PHILADELPHIA, RESIDENTS CONSUME 14.22 METRIC TONS EACH YEAR, WHICH — IF TAXED AT THE U.S. AVERAGE RATE — WOULD BRING IN $30.16 MILLION ANNUALLY.

The study looked at cities where marijuana is illegal, legal and partially legal and found the price-per-gram through crowd-sourced city-level surveys and data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's World Drug Report.

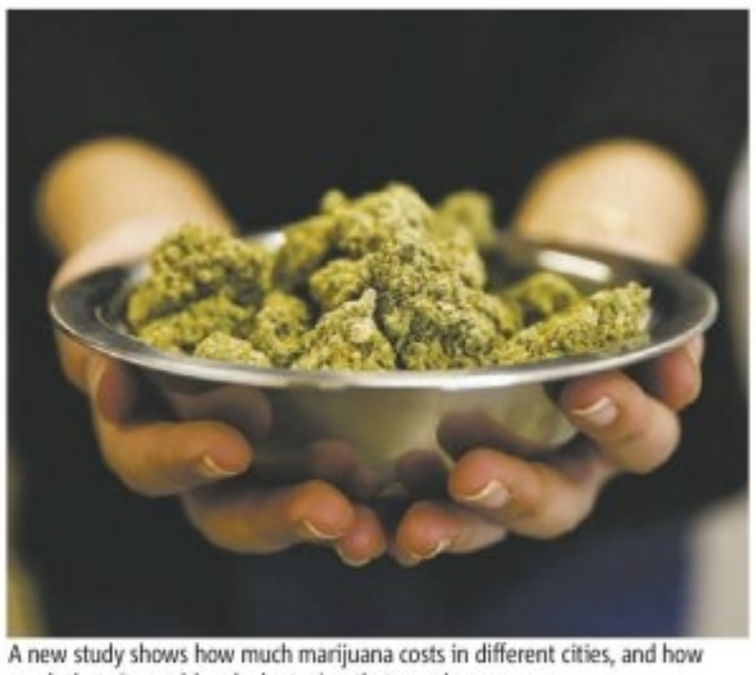
So which city has the most expensive marijuana? Of all the cities Seedo looked at, Tokyo, Japan (where marijuana is illegal), was the most expensive at $32.66 per gram. In the U.S., Washington, which has partial legality, has the most expensive weed at $18.08 per gram.

Second for just the U.S. cities was Chicago at $11.46 per gram, followed by Philadelphia at $11.30 per gram, Boston at $11.01 per gram and New York City at $10.76 per gram for the top five cities with the most expensive marijuana.

The U.S. city with the cheapest weed, according to this report, is Seattle, where it's fully legal and costs $7.58 per gram. The cheapest city globally is Quito, Ecuador, where it costs $1.34 per gram.

Seedo also looked at how much cannabis is consumed in these cities. Out of all 120 cities researched, New York came in at No. 1 for the most marijuana consumption, with residents there toking in total 77.44 metric tons per year.

That's far above the No. 2 spot, which went to Karachi, Pakistan, which has a population of 21.2 million (compared to New York City's 8.5 million). Marijuana is completely illegal in Karachi, yet that city still consumes 41.95 metric tons annually.



A new study shows how much marijuana costs in different cities, and how much that city could make by taxing that weed. GETTY IMAGES

"That illegal cannabis use is so high in countries that still carry the death penalty, such as Pakistan and Egypt, those in power ought to see how desperately new legislation is needed," said Uri Zeevi, CMO at Seedo, in a statement.

In Philadelphia, residents consume 14.22 metric tons each year, which — if taxed at the U.S. average rate — would bring in $30.16 million annually.

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90 percent of Trump's promised new jobs haven't materialized: Analysis

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

And several companies — including some the president claimed to have helped save jobs — have announced layoffs.

A year into his administration, 90 percent of the jobs President Trump promised to create haven't materialized, a new analysis finds.

Trump has made 31 specific claims that companies will add or save American jobs because of his administration. Those claims — involving companies such as Amazon and Boeing — amount to 2.4 million jobs. Only 206,000 of those jobs have been created so far, ProPublica reports. About 136,000 of those jobs were genuinely new positions, and 63,000 of them were potentially attributable to Trump, according to the companies that did the hiring.

Befitting his marketing background, Trump attracts headlines and TV coverage for grand hiring promises made by companies and celebrity CEOs — or just by himself. But the progress doesn't match the press. After Trump's election, Alibaba CEO Jack Ma appeared with the president-elect and promised 1 million American jobs. "But there's no sign any Americans were actually hired," says ProPublica. "The Chinese e-commerce giant wasn't planning to build facilities or hire coders in the U.S; it's trying to recruit American merchants to use its platform with the expectation that those companies would then hire more people."

Befitting his marketing background, Trump attracts headlines and TV coverage for grand hiring promises made by companies and celebrity CEOs — or just by himself. GETTY IMAGES

In October, Trump said Boeing would create 70,000 jobs. In reality, a Boeing spokesperson said it was an "estimate using a generic formula" of "indirect jobs that might be supported or sustained."

Trump has a history of taking credit for saving or adding jobs that were already planned. In October, on Jan. 4, 2017, he tweeted thanks to Ford for "creating 700 new jobs in the U.S." and "this is just the beginning." Ford had already planned to add those jobs per its 2015 union contract. On Jan. 9, 2017, he did the same for Fiat, thanking them for 2,000 jobs. That company's decision had also been made in 2015 and had nothing to do with Trump, a company spokesperson said. The CEO of Lockheed Martin said that he took a meeting with Trump, in which he told the president about 1,800 planned hires, part of the F35 fighter jet program which was already part of the Pentagon's budget. Trump then took credit for adding 2,000 jobs, criticizing "the fake news" in a tweet: "Ask top CEO's of those companies for real facts. Came back because of me!"

In recent weeks, companies that Trump asserted would save or add jobs, or that he used for photo ops, announced that they would in fact conduct layoffs or plant closures. On Monday, Harley-Davidson, whose motorcycles Trump displayed on the White House lawn as part of his jobs pitch, announced it would close a plant in Kansas City, eliminating 800 jobs in the area. Carrier conducted layoffs at an Indianapolis plant Trump touted as a place where he'd save jobs, letting 215 people go. This month, Walmart closed 63 Sam's Club stores and plans 3,500 more layoffs of Wal-Mart co-managers. On Jan. 24, a printing company spun off from Fortune 500 company R.R. Donnelly & Sons closed its Minnesota plant, shedding 216 jobs, and Coca-Cola announced it would close a bottling plant in Oklahoma in March, resulting in 246 layoffs.

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Meghan Markle: The *'it'* girl of Buckingham Palace

Meghan Markle, a star among us. GETTY IMAGES

How Prince Harry's beloved is already blowing up the retail industry.

LUZ LANCHEROS MWN
letters@metro.us

Since the announcement of her engagement to Prince Harry, Meghan Markle has proved she can blend her sartorial vision with what's appropriate for the British royal family. And she's already proving to be a retail phenomenon with a huge impact on the fashion industry.

Case in point? A coat she wore at a public event with Prince Harry from Mackage sold out quickly afterward. Same with a pair of Mother Denim jeans: after Markle was seen wearing them, searches for the royal denim increased 60% on Google. the white coat by Line The Label she wore for her engagement announcement is now called "The Meghan." Versions of a Strathberry tote bag she once carried are now being resold on eBay for $2,350. And it looks like she's just getting started.

"Though she still appears as a relatable everyday woman, she's infusing who she is internally with her new role externally as a royal," explains Dawnn Karen of Fashion Psychology Institute.

Cristina Maag, blogger and creator of Front Row, agrees. "This is a new moment for the royal family," she says. "Women feel empowered to dress as Meghan. After Princess Diana, she's the first person in the royal family with whom women can identify."

"Excuse me?" says Kate Middleton (in our heads). Maag notes that Meghan's looks are more modern than Kate's, and she wears what a typical (wealthy) woman might choose for her own wardrobe. She has the Michelle Obama effect, as the former FLOTUS affected everyday women with her style and personality.

"[Meghan] is the most modern woman of their story," Maag continues. "She's the 'it' girl of Buckingham Palace."

Meghan Markle's most desired looks:

Engagement announcement and first official appearance

Invictus Games

Official engagement announcement photo

Christmas dinner look at Sandringham House

GETTY IMAGES

4 *of Meghan Markle's "must have" pieces:*

Strathberry bag *($670)*

Line the Label coat
($1,400)

Aquazzura shoes
($1,474)

Jeans of Mother Denim
($100-200)

The writing process ... as a podcast

Screenwriter John August gives Metro an intimate look at story creation (and storytelling).

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

The "Big Fish" screenwriter's debut novel, "Arlo Finch In The Valley Of Fire" comes out Feb. 6. GETTY IMAGES

John August remembers the moment he knew he wanted to be a writer. "I was 4 years old and obsessed with my mom's typewriter," he tells us. "It was manual, so whenever I started to write a story, if I made a mistake, I'd have to change the story depending on whatever I had typed."

August still remembers the plot of his first story, too. "It was about a boy who was stranded in a hole on Mars. I've sort of been writing stories ever since."

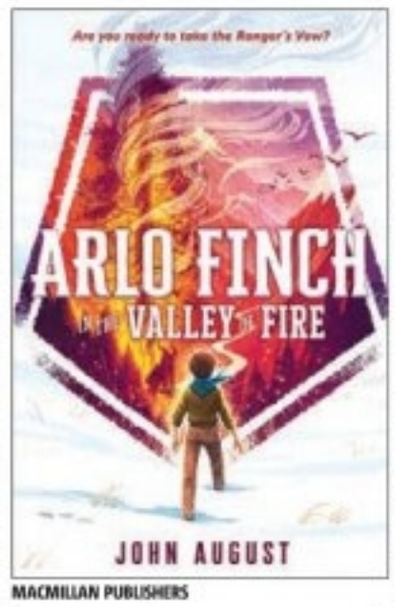
And he's not kidding: The 47-year-old is the scribe behind a slew of huge Hollywood releases, including "Go," "Big Fish," "Charlie And The Chocolate Factory" and the upcoming live-action version of "Aladdin."

Most recently, August penned his debut novel, "Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire," out Feb. 6. In the meantime, he's started "Launch," a six-episode podcast that chronicles his experience writing, selling and releasing "Arlo," all of which he narrates. And not much of that came naturally.

"It requires a kind of introspection that I'm not used to," he says. "You end up being vulnerable in ways that you never anticipated.

"With most of your writing you get to hide behind your characters. With the podcast, though, I'm literally just saying what I think. It felt like I was a monologist doing a one man show and the whole audience is looking at me, and I want them to come on a journey. Or like I was a standup comic that's doing a set that's not particularly funny."

Along the way, the positives of writing a novel over a film became apparent for August.



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"The challenge of screenwriting is it's just you and the words," he says. "In both writing 'Arlo Finch' as a book and making 'Launch,' which is just me whispering into your ear what I am doing, there's a different social contract: If you give me this amount of time and attention I will hopefully make it worth your while. You just have to trust me."

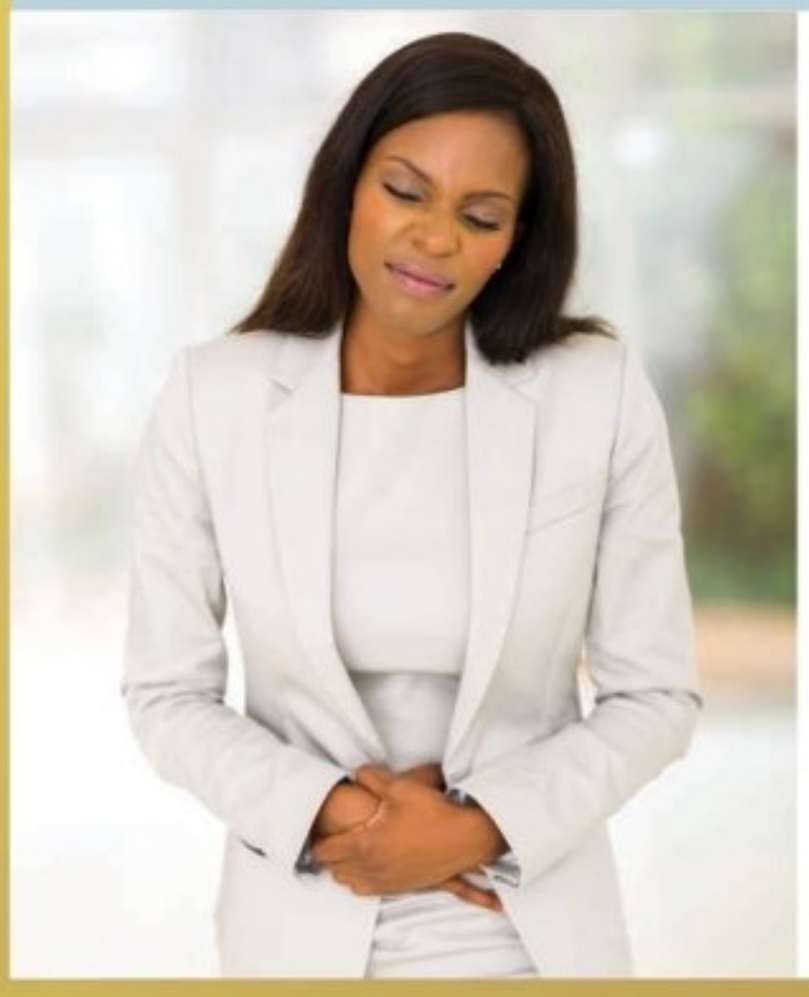
The first two episodes of "Launch" are now available to download.

August doesn't know if he'll do any more series of the podcast (two new "Arlo Finch" books are scheduled for release in February 2019 and 2020) but he expresses interests in writing more books, more movies — and mentions an interest in virtual reality, too. Which suggests that, deep down inside, August is still just that same 4-year-old trying to figure out how to get a stranded boy off planet Mars.

Thankfully, now he has the entire might of Hollywood to help him.

Are you suffering from Heavy Menstrual Bleeding due to

Uterine Fibroids?



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The Clinical Trial Center of Philadelphia is currently screening patients for a uterine fibroid research trial.
If you are a premenopausal woman aged 18 or above and you suffer from heavy menstrual bleeding associated with uterine fibroids, you may qualify to participate in this trial.

Participants with uterine fibroids who qualify, will receive investigational study medication and study-related tests at no cost. Participants may also receive compensation for their time and travel.

Study participation is voluntary.

For more information please contact Eileen at 484-380-4861 or eileen.davies@ctcphiladelphia.com

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Philly musician Mutlu performs for a patient with WXPN Musicians on Call. PROVIDED

Community Spotlight: WXPN Musicians on Call

Helen Leicht shares one of her favorite moments.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Musicians on Call is on a mission to heal through the power of music. While the organization began in New York City, the member-supported radio service of University of Pennsylvania, WXPN, forged a partnership to extend the program to the Philadelphia region in 2004. Since then, over 105,000 patients have benefitted from the Musicians on Call program, which is coordinated by assistant program director and midday host at WXPN, Helen Leicht.

Both live music and recorded music is brought to the bedsides of patients at eight area hospitals and healthcare facilities, including The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, Philadelphia VA Medical Center, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Christiana Care Health System's Wilmington Hospital and Bryn Mawr Hospital.

In addition to the musicians who perform for patients, trained non-musical volunteer guides are also needed to escort the volunteer musicians through the facility.

Helen Leicht of WXPN coordinates Musicians On Call in Philadelphia. JOE DEL TUFO

The bedside performance programs normally take place on weeknights and there are currently 70 volunteer musicians and volunteer guides participating in the WXPN Musicians on Call program.

"We have so many talented musicians and wonderful volunteers who truly appreciate the opportunity to give back," Leicht says.

Leicht recounts a special musician-patient moment when Amos Lee and Mutlu performed for veterans at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

"Of the many times I've witnessed the reactions of patients and their families, I will always remember watching Amos Lee and Mutlu visit a veteran at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center — who we were told rarely welcomed anyone into his room," she recalls. "They asked him if he wanted to hear a song. He nodded. They sang to him and within a few minutes he was humming along. When Amos and Mutlu finished their song they asked him if he wanted to sing. He did! They played guitar and sang the blues with the vet taking the lead. The representative from the VA center and I cried as we witnessed the healing power of music."

If you'd like to get involved with the WXPN Musicians on Call program, visit: http://www.xpn.org/about-xpn/moc.

Covenant House gears up for its next Sleep Out

Covenant House depends on fundraising initiatives like the Sleep Out for their operating budget. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

The celebrated nonprofit hosts an informative event at Yards.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Looking to party with a purpose? Head over to Yards Brewery tonight for the Yards Social hosted by Covenant House Pennsylvania, which runs from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For $25, guests will enjoy an open bar and light refreshments as well as learn more about Covenant House's annual Sleep Out: Young Professionals Edition, which will take place on Friday, March 23.

Young professionals will sleep outside for a night to raise money for Covenant House Pennsylvania, which is dedicated to serving runaway, homeless and trafficked youth in the Philadelphia area.

"The young people we serve have endured significant tragedies," says executive director, John Ducoff. "They've run away to escape abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. We have a 76-bed emergency housing program that's open 24-7, 365 days a year. Unlike other programs, we don't have eligibility criteria. We welcome them in without question or cost."

Over 3.5 million kids face homelessness in the United States and in Philadelphia, that number is disproportionately high.

"Philadelphia has a disproportionate number of young people experiencing homelessness," Ducoff says. "Our poverty rate is 25% — the largest of all major U.S. cities."

Covenant House Pennsylvania is the largest agency exclusively dedicated to serving homeless youth in Philadelphia and most of their operating budget comes from fundraising initiatives like the Sleep Out.

"As an agency we are 93% privately funded. We need to raise nearly our entire operating budget to keep the doors open and the lights on," Ducoff reveals.

You can learn more about the Sleep Out: Young Professionals Edition by coming to the Yards Social tonight or by visiting the Covenant House website: covenanthousepa.org.

Young professionals trade their warm beds for cardboard boxes to raise money as well as awareness for homeless youth in Philadelphia

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Like the Eagles, this hoagie will 'crush faces'

Are you ready for the JagerMonster?

JENNIFER LOGUE
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Stockyard Sandwich Co. serves up the JagerMonster hoagie for Super Bowl LII. PROVIDED

Planning a Super Bowl party? If you're looking for something one-of-a-kind to add to the menu, consider placing an order for Stockyard Sandwich Co.'s JagerMonster. It's a 30-inch hoagie packed with everyone's favorite Super Bowl eats, including braised beef, Jägermeister barbecue pulled pork, house-made whiz, boneless wings, coleslaw, pickles, fried potatoes, onion rings, ranch, stock sauce and Jägermeister barbecue sauce.

Simply reading about it makes your arteries feel clogged, but epic moments like the Eagles going to the Super Bowl call for epic eats.

The decadent gameday treat is the brainchild of chef Will Lindsay, a lifelong Eagles fan who is sure the home team will "crush faces" Sunday.

"I was born in Dallas but was raised properly by my parents from Philadelphia as an Eagles fan. They brought us to Philly in 1999 and as I grew older I understood how great the bird gang is," he says. "I haven't missed a game for a decade."

So what inspired the array of ingredients in the JagerMonster?

"We are big fans of Jägermeister here," he says. "We love the anise and herbal-driven liqueur and have talked about how great all of those flavor notes would make an amazing barbecue sauce for a hoagie."

The giant hoagie can feed between five and eight people, but how much of it could Lindsay actually eat?

"Me, personally? I'm a big human and can probably only handle about one-eighth of the sandwich," he says. "It's 30 inches and triple-stuffed!"

If you'd like to order a JagerMonster for your Super Bowl party, be sure to place it by Saturday by 4 p.m. Each hoagie costs $60.

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For more information, visit stockyardphilly.com.

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4 Most popular Super Bowl snacks

LIZ LANCHEROS | METRO WORLD NEWS

No one expects football food to be healthy. But if you actually look at what's in them, these popular choices aren't all that bad for you. ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

home

Pizza

- According to RetailMeNot.com, Americans will order 12.5 million pizzas during the event, with an average order value of $26.45.
- Chemists discovered that longer baking times increased antioxidants up to 60%. In fact, higher oven temperatures upped them by as much as 82%.
- Tomatoes in pizza can help you absorb lycopene and prevent norovirus.

Beer

- Americans will consume 1.2 billion liters of beer Super Bowl Sunday.
- A study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that women who drink moderately have better cognitive function compared to nondrinkers. Drinking beer in moderation can also reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, according to Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Wings

- According to the National Chicken Council's annual report, Americans are set to eat 1.33 billion chicken wings during Super Bowl 2018. That's a cluckin' 30 million chicken wings more than last year.
- If you are a meat-eater, chicken is the best source of lean protein. It promotes muscle growth and development. Also, it helps strengthen your bones and provides better heart health.

Guacamole

- Americans will consume almost 200 million pounds of avocados during the game.
- Guacamole includes folate and Vitamin E. Both are likely to reduce the risk of heart diseases.
- It contains vitamins C and E, which are good for your skin, hair and connective tissues.
- The healthy fats in avocado promote weight loss.

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Watch for these

The Eagles and Patriots present an interesting group of matchups for both teams.

LUKE MILLER
sports@metro.us

If you were told one team won their conference championship game by 31 points, and the other needed two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to squeak to a four point victory, you might predict the former would be favored when the two met in the Super Bowl. And yet the Patriots are favored by more than a field goal. What makes the Patriots so great? What's made the Eagles capable of upending the odds so far? And on what matchups does the big game figure to turn? We've got a preview:

When the Eagles have the ball:

Eagles pulling offensive line vs. Patriots linebackers

The Eagles have put an emphasis on athleticism among their linemen since Andy Reid was in charge in Philadelphia. It became a necessity under Chip Kelly's tempo offense and has remained key to a top three rushing attack under Doug Pederson. Having linemen who can move, get out in front of runners and engage at the second level has done as much to free up big runs and allow the Eagles to excel in the screen game for over a decade as having backs like Brian Westbrook, LeSean McCoy, and Darren Sproles have.

The Patriots run defense has generally excelled in the 2017 playoffs, holding Derrick Henry to 28 yards on 12 carries before Tennessee abandoned the rush and toughening after some early drives to prevent Jacksonville from running the clock out. Leonard Fournette finished with 76 yards on 24 carries. They were fairly vulnerable through the air however, as Jacksonville running backs totaled a combined 88 receiving yards.

Four of New England's top five solo tacklers this season are member of the secondary. The lone linebacker in the top five is Kyle Van Noy, who shines more when he is getting after the quarterback than stretching out a run play.

This is a matchup where the Eagles have a direct advantage that might allow them to control the game offensively, as has been the case through two playoff games so far.

When the Patriots have the ball:

Eagles four-man rush vs. Patriots QB Tom Brady

Once you get past the helmet-catch of yore, the most enduring memory of the Patriots' two Super Bowl defeats under Bill Belichick is Tom Brady running from Giants defensive linemen. In 2008, they sacked Brady five times, moving the Patriots back 37 yards in the process. In 2012, they sacked him twice and forced a safety via intentional grounding in the end zone, something that began the game with the exact tone with which the one four years ago had finished.

The key? They managed it with just linemen. Via defensive fronts that included Michael Strahan, Justin Tuck, Osi Umeniyiora, and Jason Pierre-Paul they were able to harass and bring down Brady while keeping seven men in coverage.

The Eagles are the best-equipped team to generate that pressure. Four linemen recorded at least five sacks this season, while Brandon Graham was pacing the team with nine-and-a-half. Four more brought down the opposing quarterback at least once. What's more, they wrecked havoc once they got there. Graham and Chris Long alone forced six fumbles. In the NFC Championship Game, rookie Derek Barnett strip-sacked Case Keenum. This deep, dangerous front is the strongest similarity between the 2018 Eagles and the kryptonite of Super Bowls past for New England.

Eagles CB Patrick Robinson vs. Patriots WR Danny Amendola

Brandin Cooks and Rob Gronkowski may be more well-known, but Amendola has starred for the Patriots in their playoff run. His two touchdowns

matchups between Eagles, Pats

Putting pressure on Tom Brady will make things a heck of a lot easier for the Eagles on Sunday in Super Bowl LII. GETTY IMAGES

in the AFC Championship against Jacksonville matched his regular season total, and his 196 receiving yards across two postseason contests is almost a third of his 659 in 15 regular season ones. Both touchdowns came in the fourth quarter to bring the Patriots back, and both were from close range in the red zone.

Those plays were designed to get Amendola open from the slot, and if he lines up there against the Eagles, the majority of the coverage he'll face will come from Robinson. The veteran corner signed a one-year deal with the Eagles and was an afterthought for much of the off-season. He's been anything but since, and a four interception season culminated in a 50-yard return against the Vikings that completely switched the game's momentum and kick-started a Philadelphia rout.

Eagles CB Jalen Mills vs. pass interference

The Patriots have morphed as an offense in 2017. Cooks is in, Julian Edelman is out, and as much as they remain capable of beating an opponent with the dink-and-dunk (ask Tennessee) they're throwing deep like they still have Moss racing up the sidelines. As Jacksonville found out two weeks ago, those deep balls can be just as damaging when they fall incomplete.

Inside the Jaguars six penalties for 98 yards were two pass interference calls that handed New England 68 yards. Pass interference was New England's third leading receiver on the day.

The Eagles are roughly middle-of-the-pack defensively when it comes to pass interference calls. They have the tenth fewest pass interference penalties in the league, and haven't been called for one since Week 14 against the Rams. That one was committed by Mills, who has been the culprit on four of the Eagles seven flags this season. That puts him at a tie for eighth-most in the league.

Before the Game

Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski vs. NFL Concussion Protocol

The Patriots' - and quite possibly, the NFL's - most dangerous weapon left the AFC Championship Game with a concussion after making just one catch. While Gronkowski remains in the concussion protocol and has been held out of some practices, it's hard to imagine the star tight end missing the Super Bowl, especially with two weeks to recover. That said, concussions are a tricky thing, and the league is under as much scrutiny as ever when it comes to player safety.

What's certain is that Gronkowski playing (or sitting) changes the entire complexion of the game when the Patriots offense is on the field Sunday. The tight end led New England in catches with 69, receiving yards with 1,084, and receiving touchdowns with eight despite missing two games.

The Patriots don't have the depth at tight end (see: Martellus Bennett and the late Aaron Hernandez) they have in recent years that has allowed them to trot out two tight-end sets featuring multiple pro-bowlers. If Gronkowski can't go, their next option is former Colt Dwayne Allen, who had ten catches for 86 yards this season.

It would also be a crushing blow to lose Gronkowski as a run blocker too.

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04 DAYS
SUPER BOWL COUNTDOWN

Philly sports psychologist says Eagles win would be great uniter

Why are sports so important to the city of Philadelphia?

EVAN MACY
evan.macy@metro.us

It's a bit premature to talk parade, but were the Eagles to hold one, the attendance would be in the millions. GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia needs to win a Super Bowl. There isn't a single business or household in the region that isn't eagerly anticipating Sunday's Super Bowl LII match up between the Eagles and Patriots.

But why is it so important?

Joel Fish, director of the Center for Sport Psychology in Philadelphia, says it is. Even though the players come and go — as do the owners, managers and coaches. The jersey is worthy of devotion.

"I think Philadelphia is unique for several reasons," Fish said. "First of all, we have three or four generations of Eagles fans here. I remember in 1968 going to Franklin Field with my dad, I've gone to games with my kids, my great-grandfather was following the Eagles. That's different than a lot of other cities.

"Our sports teams are central to our civic identity in a way that nothing else is. Our pro sports teams unite rich, poor, city, suburb, white, black, even Republican and Democrat, and it's the central piece. That's why it's so important. You listen to talk radio. A high percentage of the calls use terms like 'we won, we lost.' They identify with the team."

The potential win Sunday could bring a celebration of epic proportions, Fish contends.

"It will be three million people," he said. "It will be like the United Nations of age, race, it's the glue in many ways which ties or region together and it's a positive thing."

It's positive if they win. But if they don't, the inescapable negative media, portraying Philadelphia as a city of ignorant jerks and lovable losers will continue. And it's worth fighting against.

"When someone disses Philadelphia fans we take it personally," Fish said. "For Boston and other media to bring up snowballs and Santa Clause instead of the 25 positive examples of fan behavior, that says to me that these media folks have a need to put us down. And the reason others put us down is to make themselves feel better."

Eagles fans are no doubt sick of the insults, the stereotyping and the losing. Their shot is next Sunday.

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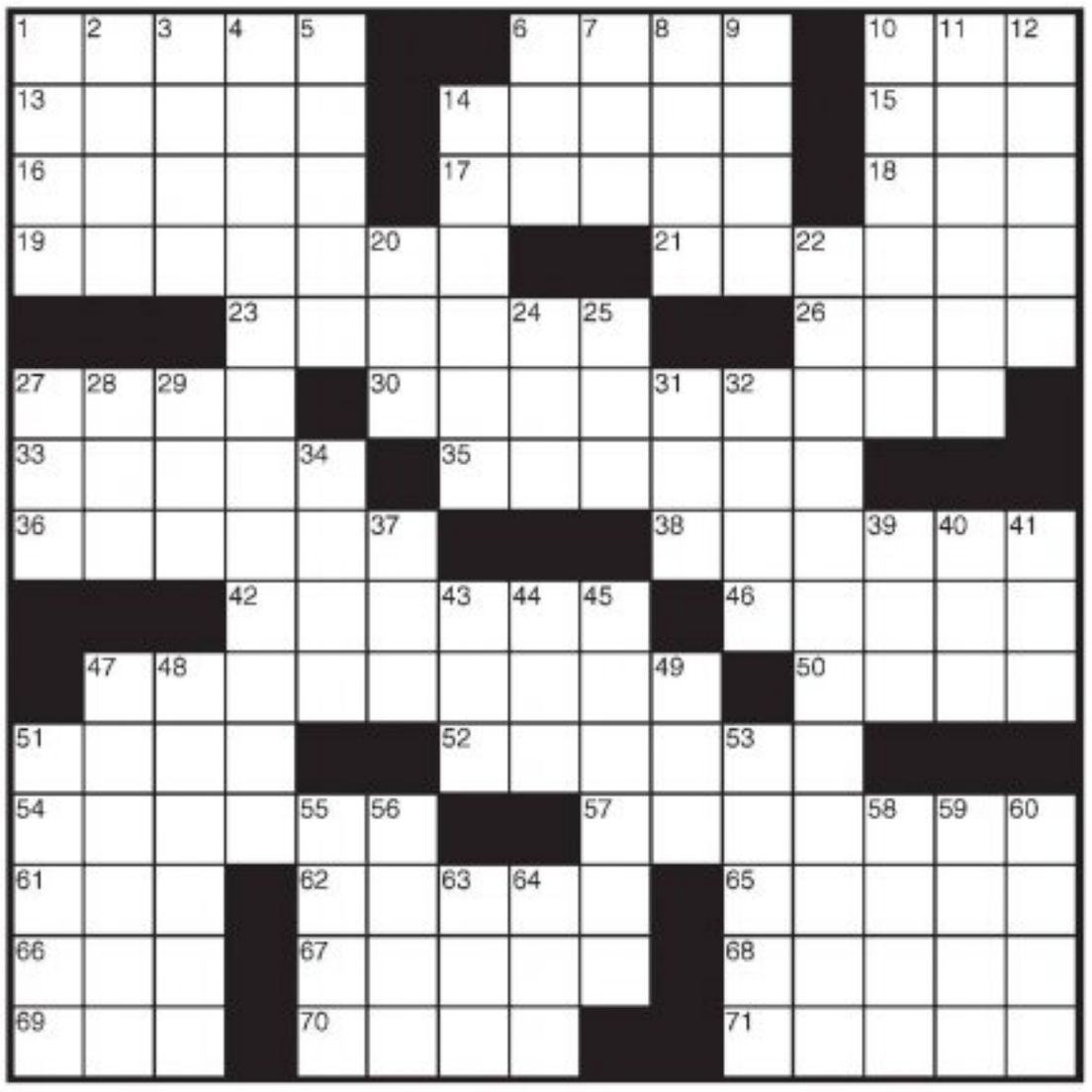

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Aries Participate in adventures that entice you. Greater physical activity will encourage positive change in all aspects of your life. Romance will improve your day.

Taurus Emotions will be difficult to set aside when it comes to your relationships. Be careful whom you trust and protect your heart from those playing mind games with you.

Gemini Make adjustments at home or at work that will give you the confidence to push forward. Love and romance are highlighted and will improve your personal life.

Cancer Making personal changes or spending money on products that promise the impossible will all be a disappointment. You are best off focusing on personal growth.

Leo Emotions will be running high, and if channeled properly will help you reach the winner's circle in record time. Don't get sidetracked by what others are doing.

Virgo Keep a close watch over current economic trends and your investments. A change could lead to an unexpected loss if you aren't well informed. Don't act in haste.

Libra Do something special for a loved one. Nurture relationships and find solutions instead of letting differences put a wedge between you and someone you care about.

Scorpio Listen, observe and take notes. You may know what you want, but if someone tries to block you, the information you gather will help you bypass trouble.

Sagittarius You'll be energized if you take on a physical challenge. Strive to improve your health and physical appearance. The results you get will boost your confidence.

Capricorn You can offer someone assistance, but don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. Make sure you get something in return for your hard work.

Aquarius Express your feelings and discuss your personal plans with the people whom your decisions will affect most. Pay close attention to detail.

Pisces Your energetic approach to work will help you gain acceptance, as long as you don't make promises you cannot keep. Keep your expectations are realistic. EUGENIA LAST

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Saturday, February 10, 2018

Registration begins at 9:45 am
Presentation 10:00 am—11:00 am

Featuring: Bruce B. Garber, MD, FACS
Urologist Specializing in the treatment of ED

Guest Speaker:
Testimonials from several patients who found a long-term solution for their ED*

Hahnemann Univeristy Hospital
626 Bobst Conference Room
231 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To reserve your space or for more information about this **FREE** Coloplast Men's Health Community Seminar, please call: (877) 681-1403.

An educational series, sponsored by Coloplast Corp., designed to inform and empower.
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